In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 26 with the following amended paragraph:

The two pivot (hinging) axes 75 and 76 are each parallel to ~~the~~ a diameter ~~40~~ of the ring 30, at which the respective straight inner edges 63 of each of the leaflets 31 and 32 meet when the leaflets 31 and 32 are each in a closed position and each axis 75 and 76 is spaced at a distance y (see Fig. 2) away from ~~the~~ such diameter 40. The planes defined by the flat interior faces 55 and 48 are each perpendicular to the hinging axes 75, 76 and parallel to the edge portions 65, 66. The straight edge portions 65, 66 are preferably perpendicular to the respective hinging axes 75, 76, thereby to achieve free rotary movement of each leaflet 31 and 32. The ear-like projections 69 preferably have about the same thickness as that of the associated leaflet 31 or 32. Preferably, the outer peripheral arcuate edge portions 61 of the leaflets 31 and 32 each have a curved or rounded profile which is adapted to abut against the adjacent curvature of the inner surface of medial wall 46 at locations thereof where portions 61 rest when in the valve closed position, thereby to avoid jamming between the edges 61 and the wall 32, particularly due to possible fluidic back pressure that may occur against a leaflet 31 or 32.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

For example, in one process, carbon black powder is pressed under high pressure to make rods or other shapes. The shapes are machined and articles (components) are produced. In the present situation, the leaflets and the ring member are produced. These articles are then heated in

a controlled atmosphere to 1,200°C or above, the temperature selected being influenced by the desired structure. Thus, the resulting pyrolytic carbon components of an inventive prosthesis embodiment, such as the leaflets, for example, are characteristically heat treated and hardened but not coated using conventional technology. Typically, the pyrolytic carbon components are inert and light in weight ~~and density~~.